

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-06 EB-08
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01
SP-02 DLOS-06 TRSE-00 /078 W
-----100851Z 095761 /23-11

R 091545Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BISSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 257

INFO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

UNCLAS BISSAU 0116

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, UR, PU

SUBJ: GUINEA-BISSAU/SOVIET FISHERIES COOPERATION

REF STATE 036190 (NOTAL)

1. ESTRELA DO MAR IS JOINT SOVIET (49 PERCENT) GUINEA-BISSAU
(51 PERCENT) FISHING COMPANY ESTABLISHED IN BISSAU AUGUST
1975 TO EXPLOIT FISH, CRUSTACEANS AND OTHER PRODUCTS OF THE SEA
WITHIN GUINEA-BISSAU'S 150 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA AND ITS INLAND
RIVERS. AS MANY AS TWENTY TRAWLERS ARE OPERATING OUT OF
BISSAU'S PORT CALLING IN FOR SUPPLIES AND CREW ROTATION
(BISSAU SERVED BY AEROFLOT ONCE A WEEK) BUT APPARENTLY DELIVERING
CATCH TO FACTORY SHIPS AT SEA.

2. 1975 AGREEMENT CALLED FOR SUBSTANTIAL SOVIET INVESTMENT
IN LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRAINING, APPARENTLY LITTLE OF
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WHICH HAS BEEN DONE. OTHER PART OF AGREEMENT, NAMELY
EXPLOITATION OF GUINEA-BISSAU'S FISHERY RESOURCES AND
EXPORT OF SAME TO USSR HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED WITH EFFICIENCY
BY SOVIETS. AS RESULT, BISSAU'S FISH MARKETS, ONCE FULL OF
MANY VARIETIES OF FISH AND CRUSTACEANS AT INCREDIBLY LOW
PRICES NOW HAVE DAILY LINES OF CONSUMERS WAITING TO PAY
INFLATED PRICES FOR THE FEW POOR QUALITY FISH AVAILABLE.

CRITICISM OF SOVIETS ON THIS SCORE IS WIDESPREAD AND BITTER. LOCAL NEWSPAPER, WHICH OFFICIAL ORGAN OF GOVERNMENT, HAS EVEN PRINTED LETTERS TO EDITOR POINTING TO SERIOUS PROBLEM IN FISH MARKET THOUGH WITHOUT MENTIONING SOVIETS. PRESIDENT CABRAL HAS PUBLICALLY ADMITTED DEFICIENCIES OF TRAINING ELEMENTS OF 1975 AGREEMENT. COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTS WAS IN MOSCOW IN AGUST 1976 (BISSAU 0070, 1976) TO RE-NEGOTIATE WHAT BISSAUNS NOW REGARD AS ONE-SIDED AGREEMENT, EXPLOITIVE AGREEMENT.

3. EC FISHERIES TEAM HERE IN JANUARY EXPLAINED TO GOGB NEED TO CONSERVE FISHING RESOURCES AND ESTIMATED AT PRESENT RATE OF EXPLOITATION BY SOVIETS IN FIVE YEARS THERE WOULD BE NOTHING LEFT TO EXPOLIT. THEY ALSO RECOMMENDED EXTENSION OF FISHING ZONE TO 200 MILES. EC TEAM EXPLAINED THAT HENCEFORTH FISHING AGREEMENTS WITH GOGB WOULD BE IN NAME OF COMMUNITY AND THAT PREVIOUSLY NEGOTIATED FRENCH BILATERAL DEAL WOULD HAVE TO EXPIRE IN TWO YEARS. GOGB APPARENTLY DID NOT RESPOND TO EC CONTENTIONS OF SOVIET EXPLOITATION NOR WERE ANY FISHING AGREEMENTS CONCLUDED. GOGB DID INCIATE, HOWEVER, IT WOULD PROBABLY EXTEND ITS FISHING ZONE TO 200 MILES.
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